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| APPLICATION NO.                                   | FILING DATE             | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.     | CONFIRMATION NO. |  |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| . 10/517,775                                      | 12/27/2004              | Luc Schrive          | 263889US2PCT            | 7582             |  |
| 22850   | 7590 11/07/2005         |                      | EXAMINER                |                  |  |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. |                         |                      | SAVAGE, MATTHEW O       |                  |  |
| 1940 DUKE<br>ALEXANDI                             | STREET<br>RIA, VA 22314 |                      | ART UNIT                | PAPER NUMBER     |  |
|   |                         |                      | 1724                    |                  |  |
|   |                         |                      | DATE MAILED: 11/07/2005 |                  |  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|  |   |  |  | $I \cup I$ |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|------------|--|--|--|
|  |   | Application No.  | Applicant(s)   |            |  |  |  |
| Office Action Summary                                |   | 10/517,775   | SCHRIVE ET AL.   |            |  |  |  |
|  |   | Examiner   | Art Unit   |            |  |  |  |
|  |   | Matthew O. Savage  | 1724   |            |  |  |  |
| Period fo  | The MAILING DATE of this communication app<br>or Reply  | ears on the cover sheet with the   | correspondence address   |            |  |  |  |
| WHIC<br>- Exte<br>after<br>- If NC<br>- Failu<br>Any | ORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY CHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DAY IN THE MAILING | ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION  (36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be to the company and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the cause the application to become ABANDON | DN.<br>timely filed<br>m the mailing date of this communic<br>IED (35 U.S.C. § 133). |            |  |  |  |
| Status   |   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
| 1)   | Responsive to communication(s) filed on   | <b></b>  |  |            |  |  |  |
| 2a)□   | Γhis action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
| 3)   | Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | closed in accordance with the practice under E  | x parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 4  | 453 O.G. 213.  |            |  |  |  |
| Disposit   | ion of Claims   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
| 4)⊠  | Claim(s) 14-26 is/are pending in the application  | ٦.   |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  |  |  |            |  |  |  |
| 5)□  | 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | Claim(s) is/are rejected.   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
| · ·  | Claim(s) is/are objected to.  |  |  |            |  |  |  |
| 8)⊠  | Claim(s) <u>14-26</u> are subject to restriction and/or   | election requirement.  |  |            |  |  |  |
| Applicat   | ion Papers  |  |  |            |  |  |  |
| 9)[  | The specification is objected to by the Examine   | <b>r.</b> .  |  |            |  |  |  |
| 10)  | The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) acce   | epted or b) $\square$ objected to by the   | Examiner.  |            |  |  |  |
|  | Applicant may not request that any objection to the   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct  | * * * *  | · ·  | • •        |  |  |  |
| 11)[   | The oath or declaration is objected to by the Ex  | aminer. Note the attached Offic  | e Action or form PTO-15  | 2.         |  |  |  |
| Priority (   | under 35 U.S.C. § 119   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
| •  | Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:   | priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(  | a)-(d) or (f).   |            |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Certified copies of the priority documents   | s have been received.  |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | 2. Certified copies of the priority documents   | •  |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | 3. Copies of the certified copies of the prior  | •  | ved in this National Stage   | 9          |  |  |  |
| * (  | application from the International Bureau   |  |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | See the attached detailed Office action for a list  | or the certified copies not receiv   | /ea.   |            |  |  |  |
| Attachmen  | t(s)  |  |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | e of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) Interview Summar  |  |            |  |  |  |
|  | e of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) mation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  | Paper No(s)/Mail (<br>5) Notice of Informal  | Date Patent Application (PTO-152)  |            |  |  |  |
|  | r No(s)/Mail Date   | 6) Other:  | (  |            |  |  |  |

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Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 14-20, drawn to a method for treatment of effluents.

Group II, claim(s) 21-26, drawn to an installation for treatment of effluents.

The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, because the shared technical features recited in independent claims 14 and 21 fail to provide a contribution over the prior art (see U.S. Patent 6,491,820).

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, since as explained above, the shared technical features recited in independent claims 14 and 21 fail to provide a contribution over the prior art.

The species are as follows:

Species of power supplies:

Species E1 shown in FIG. 1;

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Species E2 shown in FIG. 2.

Species of separator arrangements:

Species S1 including semifrontal membrane filtration arrangement shown in FIG. 3 and recited in claims 16, 17, 23, and 24;

Species S2 including the tangential membrane filtration arrangement shown in FIG. 4 and recited in claims 16, 17, 23, and 24;

Species S3 including the tangential membrane filtration arrangement shown in FIG. 5 and recited in claims 16, 17, 23, and 24;

Species S4 including an arrangement including a settlement operation not shown in any of the drawings and recited in claims 18 and 25.

Species of waste to be treated:

Species W1, the activated sludge reactor not shown in any of the drawings and recited in claim 20;

Species W2, the rotofermenter not shown in any of the drawings and recited in claim 20.

Claims 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, and 26 are generic.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect <u>one of species E1-E2</u>, <u>one of species S1-S2</u>, <u>and one of species W1-W2</u> to which the claims shall be restricted if no

generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Matthew O Savage Primary Examiner Art Unit 1724

mos November 2, 2005